

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Plaintiff,

v.

JEANNETTE SOTOMAYOR-VAZQUEZ,

Defendant.

Criminal No. 97-091 (JAF)

O R D E R

We finally reach the November 12, 1999, motion by Attorney Francisco Rebollo-Casalduc, seeking reconsideration of sanctions imposed on May 21, 1998. See Docket Document No. 1031.

The long time elapsed between the filing of the motion and the present resolution obeys to the fact that this case remained active and litigious directly and collaterally until very recent times. It was only prudent not to act until the last stages of this unusual criminal litigation had ended, and the collateral third-party criminal litigation against other actors for obstruction of justice had concluded.

Without hesitation, we can say that Attorney Rebollo-Casalduc's actions in this case never changed our opinion about his good character, moral fitness, and legal abilities. While remaining convinced that he acted motivated by the peer pressure of a jointly-undertaken defense, it is also true that the shock of the sanction

Criminal No. 97-091 (JAF)

2-

immediately brought about a reality check that led Mr. Rebollo to admit, as a responsible professional, that other courses of action would have been more prudent.

The original sanctions had to be evenly handed out against those attorneys involved in the conduct the court found objectionable. However, we recognize that Mr. Rebollo was the only one to meet the consequences and seek professional forgiveness from the offended party. Mr. Rebollo, thus, acted like the honest, serious professional he is. Therefore, it is only fair that, after so many years of patiently waiting for this case to conclude, he be duly recognized for what he consistently is, a decent professional in every sense of the word.

The written sanction and censure previously imposed is **vacated** in recognition of Mr. Rebollo's honesty and courage in dealing with the situation and facts that brought about the original sanction.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

San Juan, Puerto Rico, this 15th day of August, 2005.

S/José Antonio Fusté
JOSE ANTONIO FUSTE
U. S. District Judge